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CLARK COUNTY
WASHINGTON

ADA Compliance Program Fairgrounds ADA Accessibility Survey

Date of Survey: August 9, 2006

Survey Conducted by: Clark County Citizen ADA Advisory Board

Note: This survey was conducted to identify immediate and low-cost repairs in anticipation that the Fairgrounds Master Plan, when implemented, will address and resolve Fairgrounds accessibility issues for persons with disabilities.

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MIDWAY, PEDESTRIAN ROUTES AND AREAS

Drain Grates

Many of the surface drainage grate openings exceed ½ inch in width. These openings are a potential hazard to persons in mobility devices (i.e. wheelchairs, canes, walkers) as the wheels or other support devices can become lodged causing the mobility device to turn over.

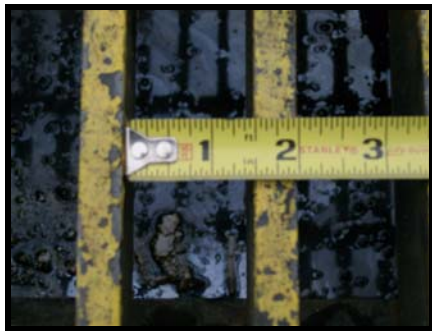
Recommendation:

- Replace grates that meet ANSI Code 302.3

Source Code:

- ANSI 302.3 – Openings in Floor Surfaces – Openings in floor surfaces shall be of a size that does not permit the passage of a ½ inch diameter sphere.

Sample Photographs:



Grate in Midway with 1.5" opening



Wheelchair wheel can be easily inserted into the grate opening resulting in wheelchair falling over.

Food Court

The picnic tables in the food court should be adequately spaced to allow for the passage of wheelchairs (36 inches) Also, there are no designated areas for persons in wheelchairs to utilize this area.

Recommendations:

- Ensure adequate passageway is maintained around the perimeter and center aisle of existing tables in the food court
- Establish areas in the food court for persons in mobility devices. Approximately 2-3 tables should be specifically constructed for use by persons with disabilities and their care persons. The area should also be signed for restricted use.
- Accessible picnic tables should be pedestal construction and anchored to the floor. Four stool-type seats for care persons should be installed with the table and anchored to the floor. This layout allows for four care persons and four wheelchairs to occupy the table.

Sample Photograph:



Food court tables and access aisles need to be maintained for wheelchair passage

Truncated Domes

Many of the pedestrian pathways and crosswalks that intersect with vehicle ways do not have truncated domes.

Recommendation:

- Install truncated domes at all vehicular way and pedestrian way points of intersection.

Source Code:

- ANSI 705.5 Truncated Domes – Detectable warning surfaces shall have truncated domes complying with Section 705.5
- ANSI 406.12 Detectable Warnings at Raised Marked Crossings – Marked crossings that are raised to the same level as the adjoining sidewalk shall be preceded by a 24-inch deep detectable warning complying with Section 705.

Ramps

Many of the ramps within the Fairgrounds are not constructed to provide adequate accessibility to programs or activities.

Examples and recommendations include:

- Beef Barn – The north side ramp into the beef barn far exceeds slope requirements. The current ramp cannot be negotiated by a person in a manual wheelchair. A care person would have difficulty pushing a wheelchair up this ramp. A new ramp should be constructed from the entrance of the barn to the NE so that the slope of the pathway is no steeper than 1:12 and shall have a cross slope that does not exceed 1:48.
- First Aid Station – The ramp to the first aid station exceeds slope requirements of 1:12 and needs to be replaced.
- Food Concession – The food booth on the south side of South Hall 1 has a ramp but the lip of the ramp is too high. Persons in mobility devices can not negotiate this ramp.
- Horse Riding Arena – Ramp on west end to elevated platform appears to be too steep. The edge of the ramp on the floor is too high – Approx 1" lip.

- Horse Riding Arena - A second elevated viewing area for persons with disabilities should be constructed on the SE end as the riding arena is divided into two areas.
- Sheep Judging Arena – A viewing area for persons with disabilities should be constructed.
- Vendor Displays – Many of the vendor displays are inaccessible to persons in mobility devices. Whenever possible, vendors should be encouraged to have ramps constructed for accessibility.
- Vendor Display (Specific) – The pavement edge to the vendor displays on the south side of the horse riding arena are too high.
- Vendor Display (Specific) – Clark County Dairy Women’s Association – The poles embedded in concrete at the entrance to this building are only 26” wide. The poles should be a minimum of 32 inches. However, there is an alternate route than can be utilized on the north side of the building but it was chained off at the time of this survey.
- Ramps to portable stages or smaller entertainment stages, such as the stage on the east side of the food court, must be provided.

Source Code:

- See ANSI Section 405 Ramps

Sample Photographs:



Ramp to Beef barn is too steep and inaccessible. A new ramp should be constructed from the entrance of the barn to the NE so that the slope of the pathway is no steeper than 1:12 and shall have a cross slope that does not exceed 1:48.



First Aid station ramp is too steep.



Food concession ramp – South side of South Hall 1 – is too steep. The edge of the ramp on the floor is too high – Approx 1” lip.



Ramp on west end of horse riding arena to elevated spectator platform appears to be too steep. The edge of the ramp on the floor is too high – Approx 1" lip.



The pavement edge to the vendor displays on the south side of the horse riding arena are too high. Wheelchairs could easily fall over. Also, elevated edges are a potential trip and fall hazard.



Many vendor displays are inaccessible to persons with wheelchairs or mobility devices such as walkers.

Note: Numerous manufactures now fabricate portable ramps, with some specifically designed to bridge curbs and are appropriate for use at a temporary event; such as the fair. For safety reasons, it is critical that ramp be designed not to move or shift from frequent use and is securely attached so a person would not tip or fall out of their wheelchair or mobility device.

Floor Surfaces

Many areas on pedestrian pathways have uneven surfaces which are difficult to negotiate for persons with mobility devices. Also, accessible paths or areas on midways should be kept clear. Examples Include:

- SW corner of pavement adjacent to the Clark County Dairy Women's booth. Large hole about 1.5 inches deep.
- The pavement edge to the vendor displays on the south side of the horse riding arena are too high.
- Loose Gravel in amusement ride area.
- East side of food court has a limited level area of travel. Hand washing stations, tables and signs should be placed so as not to obstruct this area for persons in mobility devices.

Recommendations:

- Survey complex and level out all pathway indentions.
- Barricade problem areas that cannot be repaired. Ensure there is an alternate accessible route around any barriers.
- The amusement park area should be paved for accessibility. If cost prohibitive, consideration should be given to paving paths throughout this area or acquiring interlocking mats that can used as a temporary means of providing pathways through the amusement ride areas.
- Staff should ensure that accessible areas are kept clear of obstructions and debris.

Source Code:

- ANSI 302.1 Floor Surfaces – General – Floor surfaces shall be stable, firm and slip resistant and shall comply with Section 302. Changes in level floor surfaces shall comply with Section 303.

Sample Photographs:



Pavement indentation on SW corner of Clark County Dairy Women's Association booth. Indention is about 1.75 inches deep.



The pavement edge to the vendor displays on the south side of the horse riding arena are too high. Wheelchairs could easily fall over. Also, elevated edges are a potential trip and fall hazard.



Deep and loose gravel in amusement ride area makes it very difficult to push or maneuver a wheelchair



Limited level area on east side of food court. Aisle way should be monitored to ensure there is an adequate passageway for persons in mobility devices.

Parking

- Inadequate number of accessible parking spaces available per code for Fairground activities.
- Accessible parking on the NW corner of the fairgrounds exceeds slope requirements, gravel surface is difficult to navigate (received two citizen comments during the survey regarding gravel in parking lot) and there are no access aisles.
- NE Parking – Keep pedestrian access aisle on north side of parked vehicles adjacent to entrance fence clear of debris.

- NE Parking – Place signs on fence directing pedestrians to utilize the access aisle and not walk in parking lot.

Recommendations:

- Ensure there is adequate accessible parking – Code requires one accessible stall for every 25 parking stalls. One out of every six accessible stalls must be van accessible.
- Establish permanent accessible parking areas at all gates; excluding the yellow gate. Disabled parking areas should be paved with a flat smooth surface, clearly marked and signed.
- In the event paving accessible parking areas is cost prohibitive, accessible parking stalls can be created by blocking off areas within the parking lot. Spray paint or white chalk can be used to identify parking and rubber mats can be used to identify access aisles while covering unstable ground surface.
- Signage at entrance of fairgrounds and along perimeter roads within the fair complex should show where accessible parking is located.
- Parking attendants should be stationed in areas for disabled parking. Attendants should direct traffic, assist motorists and ensure compliance with disabled parking and van accessible parking regulations.

Source Code:

- ANSI Chapter 5
- IBC Section 1106 – Parking and Passenger Loading Facilities

Sample Photographs:



Access aisle in NW parking lot should be kept clear of debris



Access aisle in NW parking lot should be kept clear of debris



Gate should not block access to access aisle

Restrooms

- Signage – All accessible restrooms, including portable accessible restrooms, need to be signed as accessible.
- Restrooms that are not accessible should have signage with directions to the nearest accessible restroom
- Horse Arena Restrooms

- A. Toilet paper dispensers in the accessible stalls are too high and too far from the toilet seat. Should be installed per ANSI requirements below to reduce reach range.
- B. Benches are needed in showers stall.

Recommendations:

- Provide signage per respective code
- Remove and reinstall toilet paper dispenser per code.

Source Code:

- ADAAG – 4.1.2 (7) (B) Building Signage

Building Signage - Signs which designate permanent rooms and spaces shall comply with 4.30.1, 4.30.4, 4.30.5 and 4.30.6. Other signs which provide direction to, or information about, functional spaces of the building shall comply with 4.30.1, 4.30.2, 4.30.3, and 4.30.5. Elements and spaces of accessible facilities which shall be identified by the International Symbol of Accessibility and which shall comply with 4.30.7 are:

- (a) Parking spaces designated as reserved for individuals with disabilities;
- (b) Accessible passenger loading zones;
- (c) Accessible entrances when not all are accessible (inaccessible entrances shall have directional signage to indicate the route to the nearest accessible entrance);
- (d) Accessible toilet and bathing facilities when not all are accessible

ANSI 604.7 – Dispensers

Toilet paper dispensers shall comply with Section 309.4 and shall be 7 inches minimum and 9 inches maximum in front of the water closet measured to the center of the dispenser. The outlet shall be 15 inches minimum and 48 inches maximum above the floor, and shall not be located behind grab bars. Dispensers shall not be of a type that control delivery, or do not allow for continuous paper flow.

Sample Photograph:



Toilet paper dispensers in men's and women's horse arena restrooms are too high and too far away from the edge of the toilet.

Vendor Services and Information Building

The vendor service and information building on the NE corner of the fairgrounds is not accessible to persons with disabilities.

Recommendations:

- Install a window to accommodate persons in mobility devices
- Ensure employees occupying this building are alert to the needs of persons with disabilities and provide services to them when needed.

Sample Photograph:



The services provided from this building are not accessible to persons with disabilities.

Exhibition Center

The Exhibition Center has one automatic door leading into the south side of the building. To enter the actual exhibition hall, patrons must walk through a small foyer and through a second set of doors. There is no automatic door on the second set of doors.

Recommendation:

Install a second automatic door on the interior entrance to the exhibition hall for use by persons in mobility devices.

Sample Photograph:



A second automatic door on the interior foyer door of the Exhibition Center should be installed.

Mobility Services Buildings

The mobility services buildings are inaccessible to persons with disabilities. (Ramps configurations)

These buildings should be made fully accessible and should provide a wide range of services and information to persons with disabilities

Recommendations:

- Ensure employees occupying these buildings are alert to the needs of persons with disabilities and provide services to them when needed.
- Ensure buildings are staffed at all times by competent and knowledgeable individuals.
- Suggest installation of ramps to buildings
- Pamphlets should be available detailing available services, locations of accessible restrooms, locations of parking for the disabled, locations of first aid stations and how to request a reasonable accommodation.

Sample Photograph:



The East side accessibility service shed is poorly located. The ground surface is sloped and rough. The shed is located behind the admission gate ... it should be located on the edge of the Midway pavement and staffed by knowledgeable staff with an array of services and information.

AMUSEMENT RIDE AREA

Ground Surface

The ground surface in the amusement park area has a great deal of loose gravel. In some areas, there are pockets of deep gravel that make maneuvering or pushing a wheelchair very difficult.

Recommendations:

- The amusement park area should be paved for accessibility.
- If paving the entire area is cost prohibitive, consideration should be given to paving paths throughout this area **or**;
- Acquiring interlocking mats that can be used as a temporary means of providing pathways through the amusement ride areas.

Electrical Cords

Numerous electric cords cross pedestrian paths. Some of the cords are covered with protective mats; others are not. Cords are difficult to negotiate in mobility devices.

Recommendations:

- The amusement park area should be paved or a hard-pan surface applied for accessibility. If paved, trench boxes that can be opened by workers should be installed where cables can be laid under the surface or electrical conduits located throughout the amusement park area.
- If paving is cost prohibitive, mats should be acquired to cover the cords that have the proper slope and will not bunch up resulting in trip and fall hazards.

Sample Photographs:



Electrical cords in pedestrian pathways.



Electrical cords in pedestrian pathways.

Mats

Currently, there are two type of mats used to cover some of the aforementioned electrical cords. Suggest that only mats that can be laid down flat and not pose a trip and fall hazard be utilized. Also, mats should have slopes that can be negotiated as opposed to the steep incline mats that are located in some areas of the amusement rides.

Sample Photographs:



Mats in amusement park area pose a trip and fall hazard and are very difficult to negotiate in a mobility



This mat provides better protection to the cords and pedestrians. However, the slope of the pad is a little too



Mats in amusement park area pose a trip and fall hazard and are very difficult to negotiate in a mobility device

device

steep and is difficult to cross
in a wheelchair

Ride Accessibility

Most of the amusement park rides are older and are inaccessible to people with disabilities. It is recommended that vendors be asked to provide a number of rides that are accessible. (See Appendix A)

Ramps

Ramps for access to rides should be provided when necessary.

Recommendations:

- Vendors should be required to provide ramps to accessible rides
- A copy of the United States Access Board Guidelines on Accessible Amusement Rides should be distributed to ride vendors and asked to comply with the guidelines to the greatest extent possible. (See Appendix A)

Sample Photographs:



With no ramp, this ride is inaccessible to persons in mobility devices



With no ramp, this display is inaccessible to persons in mobility devices

VENDOR EDUCATION

An important component of the Clark County Fair and temporary events at the fairgrounds are vendors selling food, merchandise or operating games and contents. Ideally, booths, displays or carts should be accessible. If existing designs cannot be modified to be accessible, then the method of providing the service must be altered.

Vendors should be educated by the fair to ensure that persons with disabilities will have comparable access to food, drinks, merchandise or services offered. Vendors should be advised to offer additional assistance so people with disabilities can participate equally. Vendors must be willing to provide the same service offered to everyone.

Recommendations:

- Require signage at all vendor displays advising persons with disabilities that the vendor will assist them if they are unable to access services, merchandise or products offered.

- Educate vendors regarding their obligations under the Americans with Disabilities Act to offer equal services to all persons.
- Have vendors provide ramps or other areas where services are provided for persons with disabilities

Sample Photographs:



This concession stand is inaccessible to persons with disabilities



Merchandise that is elevated on racks or shelves cannot be accessed by some persons with disabilities



Aisle ways may be inaccessible to persons in mobility devices such as wheelchairs

REQUESTS FOR REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS - COMMUNICATIONS

Fair and event organizers must be aware of their obligations to provide reasonable accommodations when requested; especially requests for communication devices. Communications barriers must be removed as much as possible to allow persons with disabilities to participate in activities and communicate with staff and other individuals.

Electronic and mechanical devices, such as assistive listening devices and trained personnel, (i.e. sign language interpreters) should be available to assist people with hearing disabilities. Alternate formats may also be needed to convey content of speeches, performances or exhibits.

Informational flyers should be produced and distributed to fair patrons as well as having information on how to access alternate formats and services on the fair web page.

SIGNAGE

Signage is recommended as follows:

- Horse Riding Arena – Directional signage to elevated viewing area(s)
- Parking - NE Parking Area – Signage on fence directing pedestrians to use access aisle
- Parking – Directional signs on perimeter roads to disabled parking areas
- Restrooms – Signs on all restroom facilities that are accessible. Inaccessible restrooms must have signage directing individuals to the nearest accessible restroom.
- Any inaccessible entrances must have signage to the nearest accessible entrance
- Grandstands – Signage for reserved seating for persons with disabilities on front landing areas

- Eating areas designated for persons with disabilities should be signed for restricted use
- Midway display maps should be erected with locations of services for the disabled, events, displays, exhibits, restrooms, first aid stations; etc.
- Post signage at all vendor displays informing the public that the vendors will provide assistance to persons with disabilities in accessing vendor merchandise or information.
- Informational flyers should be produced and distributed to fair patrons as well as having information on how to access alternate formats and services on the fair web page.

APPENDIX A – ACCESSIBLE AMUSEMENT RIDES

